dations of Review Committee are still under consideration of the Government. It has since been decided to defer consideration by Committee of Secretaries till the matter is examined by Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Government have not received any such threats. However, Government are aware of the views of CSIR Laboratory Directors on the recommendations in the Report. Decision on the recommendations will be taken only after full consideration of all relevant aspects.

Conversion of Staff Artists as Government Servants

216. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Staff Artists regularised as Government servants w.e.f. 6th March, 1982 and eligible for promotion to higher grades have not yet been given any promotion to various equated regular programme cadres;

(b) the number of promotions given to such Staff Artists since 6th March, 1982 in each equated regular programme cadre against their quota, year-wise; and

(c) by when Government propose to grant promotion to such equated Staff Artists in various equated regular programme grades against the quota earmarked for such converted Staff Artists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Vacancies earmarked for Staff Artists for promotion to the grade of Deputy Director General and Station Director (Ordinary Grade) have already been filled while Departmental Promotion Committee for filling vacancies in Station Director grade will take place shortly. Vancancies earmarked for Staff Artists in the grade of Assistant Station Director and Programme Executive could not be filled up so far due to certain administrative constraints, although the vacancies have been kept aside according to their ratio.

(b) Promotions to the regular Programme cadre are to be made in accordance with the Recruitment Rules notified on 23rd October, 1984. The number of promotions given to Staff Artists in the equated categories in the equated categories in the Programme cadre since the notification of these Recruitment Rules is as under:—

	Vacancies earmarked for Staff Artists	Promotions made
Deputy Director General		
Year 1985	1	1
Station Director (Ordinary Grade)		
Year 1985	4	4
Year 1986	3	2*

*One person died before taking over charge.

(c) The promotions to various cadres from amongst eligible persons including Staff Artists are done in accordance with the notified Recruitment Rules, against their respective quotas. The Staff Artists declared as Government servants will be observed in the regular programme cadre at the time of their promotion, depending upon the availability of vacancies in their respective quota.

Schemes to be axed to save Rs. 1000 Crores

217. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his

*Opened in 1986

Ministry had identified about 150 such schemes in the Budget which needed to be axed to save about Rs. 1,000 crores as reported in 'India Today' dated 18th March, 1987; and

(b) if so, the names of such schemes, the amount spent on each one of them during each of the last three years and final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The report is incorrect.

Strength of NCC Cadets

219. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of NCC cadets in the country;

(b) what had been their number during the last three years;

(c) whether there has been any increase or, decline in the strength of NCC cadets; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to popularise NCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) The enrolled strength of NCC cadets as on 31st March, 1986, was 10,11,166.

(b) The number of NCC Cadets during the last three years was as under:—

1983-84	9,82,513
1984-85	10,00,921
1985-86	10,11,166

(c) There has been a marginal increase in the strength of NCC cadets during the last three years.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to popularise the NCC. The notable among them are the following:—

(i) To enable NCC cadets to obtain commission in the Armed Forces, some seats have been earmarked for them in the Service Academies.

(ii) Weightage is also given in their recruitment into the three Services, the Coast Guard and also in the Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Police in some States.

(iii) A number of concessions have been given by both the Central and State Govts. to the NCC cadets for admission in professional institutions.

(iv) Universities have been requested to introduce the NCC as an optional/additional subject in their curricula so that the cadets get due credit for joining the Corps.

(v) A number of adventure activities, viz., hang-gliding, para-sailing rock climbing, trekking and monuntaineering etc., have been introduced in the NCC.

(vi) The NCC has a regular exchange programme with a number of countries under which the cadets get a chance to visit them.

A High Level Committee has been set up by Government recently to review the working of the NCC. The Committee will address itself to the existing scheme of incentives to the cadets and make their recommendations.

Telecast and broadcast of Haj celebration

219. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to telecast and broadcast Haj